

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 OPR-02 CU-04 LAB-06 SIL-01 EB-11

COME-00 SY-04 SCCT-02 NIC-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /158 W

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P 071231Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 039

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

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7. ON JUNE 5, GROUP OF RIGHT-WING POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN LAHORE ORGANIZED "JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE" (JAC), TOP 3 OFFICERS OF WHICH ARE LEADERS OF JUI, JUP AND JI. OTHER OFFICERS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF PJP, PML, THE AHRARS AND OTHER MINOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. ANOTHER PROMINENT NOTABLE IN JAC IS CHATTAN EDITOR AGHA SHORISH KASHMIRI (SEE ISLAMABAD A-70). JAC ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONTAINING SAME FIVE-POINT DEMAND OUTLINED ABOVE, AND CONGRATULATED MUSLIMS OF NATION FOR DEMONSTRATING RELIGIOUS SPIRIT IN "PEACEFUL WAY," ADDING THAT "STRUGGLE" WOULD CONTINUE. JAC ALSO APPEALED TO LAWYERS TO SET UP "DEFENSE COMMITTEES" TO PROVIDE LEGAL AID TO MUSLIMS ARRESTED AS RESULT OF COMMUNAL PROBLEMS.

8. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT SITUATION IS BEING COMPLICATED BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, SEVERAL AARGE GROUPS OF WHOM PLAN TO HOLD TOKEN STRIKE JUNE 8 AND GENERAL STRIKE ON JUNE 17, IF THEIR LIST OF 35 DEMANDS IS NOT ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY RAILWAY UNIONS, ROAD TRANSPORT UNION AND VARIOUS LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING MAZDOOR KISSAN PARTY AND PAKISTAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

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9. INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE: (A) THERE IS RUMOR HERE THAT

FORMER WORLD COURT JUSTICE ZAFRULLAH KHAN HAS ARRIVED IN PAKISTAN. KHAN IS LEADING AHMADIYA AND WAS FOCUS OF ANTI-AHMADIYA FERMENT IN 1953 WHEN HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER. CURRENT RUMOR (WHICH MAY BE TRUE) APPARENTLY BEING SPREAD TO DISCREDIT GOP SINCE IT INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER IS "CON-SULTING" ZAFRULLAH. (B) VIRTUALLY ALL OUR CONTACTS MAINTAIN THAT MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICES ARE "FULL" OF AHMADIYAS, #923;34, WHEN PINNED DOWN, ONLY NAME WHICH GENERALLY COMES TO MIND IS RECENTLY RETIRED AIR MARSHAL CHAUDHRY. ACCORDING TO ONE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT, GOP HAS LOOKED INTO MATTER AND FOUND THAT SENIOR-MOST AHMADIYA IS (UNNAMED) PROVINCIAL SECRETARY IN SIND.

10. PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IS TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH CRISIS (WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OR SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR PAST WEEK). AUTHORITIES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED BY CHANCE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL TROUBLES, BUT MAINTAINED GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO AVERT FURTHER INCIDENTS. THEIR ASSERTION THAT POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES ARE FULLY MOBILIZED IS BORNE OUT BY SIGHTINGS OF POLICE AND FSF CONTINGENTS IN FULL RIOT GEAR IN LAHORE, GUJRANWALA AND LYALLPUR.

11. COMMENT: TENSION IN PUNJAB REMAINS HIGH BECAUSE RUMORS OF OUTRAGES CONTINUE TO SPREAD THROUGH GRAPEVINE IN ABSENCE OF NEWS IN PRESS. (ALTHOUGH ACCURATE ACCOUNTS IN PRESS MIGHT EVEN MAKE THINGS WORSE, IF RUMORS CAN BE BELIEVED. REVIEW OF OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF 1953 DISTURBANCES INDICATES ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.) ACTIVISTS DO NOT SEEM WILLING TO LET THINGS DIE DOWN, PERHAPS ON THEORY THEY HAVE GOVERNMENT ON RUN. IF PAST IS ANY GUIDE, END TO COMMUNAL CRISIS IS NOT IN SIGHT, DESPITE ABHORRENCE OF GENERAL PUBLIC, AND NEWS OF INJECTION OF OTHER ISSUES TO PLAGUE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SPELLS INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN DAYS TO COME.
GRIFFIN

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